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67,008-073
S-5674

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

Please amend the claims as follows. This listing of claims will replace all prior listings.

1. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A hollow composite article, comprising:
~~a multiple of tri-axial braid having a multiple of braided bias angled fibers and a multiple of zero degree fibers interwoven with said multiple of braided bias angled fibers which form a braided sleeve with a non-circular cross-sectional profile which surrounds a longitudinal axis, said braided bias angled fibers oriented non-parallel to a said longitudinal axis to provide two axes of said tri-axial braid and, and~~
~~a multiple of zero degree fibers interwoven with said multiple of braided bias angled fibers said zero degree fibers substantially parallel to said longitudinal axis to provide one axis of each of said multiple of tri-axial braids.~~
2. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The hollow composite article as recited in claim 1, wherein ~~each of~~ said braided bias angled fibers are offset approximately 40 degrees relative said longitudinal axis.
3. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The hollow composite article as recited in claim 1, wherein ~~each of~~ said braided bias angled fibers are offset approximately 45 degrees relative said longitudinal axis.
4. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The hollow composite article as recited in claim 1, wherein ~~each of~~ said braided bias angled fibers follow a spiral path around said longitudinal axis.
5. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The hollow composite article as recited in claim 1, wherein a leading edge and a trailing edge conic of said hollow composite article comprise said braided bias ~~angle~~ angled fibers.

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6. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The hollow composite article as recited in claim 1, wherein each of said braided bias angled fibers are oriented to accommodate a twist along said longitudinal axis.

7. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The hollow composite article as recited in claim 1, wherein said zero degree fibers are positioned upon adjacent an upper and lower aerodynamic surface of said hollow composite article, said multiple of zero degree fibers maintained in tension.

8. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The hollow composite article as recited in claim 1, 7 further comprising a separate composite sheet interwoven with said multiple of braided bias angled fibers and said multiple of zero degree fibers, said composite sheet located adjacent at least one of said upper and lower aerodynamic surfaces.

9. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A composite rotor blade spar, comprising:
a multiple of braided bias angled fibers and a multiple of zero degree fibers interwoven with said multiple of braided bias angled fibers which form a braided sleeve with a non-circular cross-sectional profile which surrounds a longitudinal axis, said braided bias angled fibers oriented non-parallel to a said longitudinal axis, and
a multiple of zero degree fibers interwoven with said multiple of braided bias angled fibers, said zero degree fibers substantially parallel to said longitudinal axis.

10. (ORIGINAL) The composite rotor blade spar as recited in claim 9, wherein said longitudinal axis is a faying axis.

11. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The composite rotor blade spar as recited in claim 9, wherein each of said braided bias angled fibers follow a spiral path around said longitudinal axis.

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12. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The composite rotor blade spar as recited in claim 9, wherein a leading edge and a trailing edge conic of said spar comprise only said braided bias ~~angle~~ angled fibers.

13. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The composite rotor blade spar as recited in claim 9, wherein ~~each of~~ said zero degree fibers are positioned upon ~~adjacent an~~ upper and lower surface of said spar.

14. (ORIGINAL) The composite rotor blade spar as recited in claim 9, further comprising a separate composite sheet interwoven with said multiple of braided bias angled fibers and said multiple of zero degree fibers.

15-21. (CANCELED)

22. (NEW) The hollow composite article as recited in claim 1, wherein said braided sleeve is formed to generally constrict toward said longitudinal axis.

23. (NEW) The composite rotor blade spar as recited in claim 9, wherein said braided sleeve is formed to generally constrict toward said longitudinal axis.

24. (NEW) The composite rotor blade spar as recited in claim 9, wherein said multiple of zero degree fibers are maintained in tension.

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25. (NEW) A rotor blade assembly, comprising:
a spar including a multiple of braided bias angled fibers and a multiple of zero degree fibers interwoven with said multiple of braided bias angled fibers which form a braided sleeve which surrounds a longitudinal axis, said multiple of braided bias angled fibers oriented non-parallel to said longitudinal axis, said multiple of zero degree fibers substantially parallel to said longitudinal axis;
an upper skin which at least partially surrounds said spar to define an upper aerodynamic surface; and
a lower skin which at least partially surrounds said spar to define a lower aerodynamic surface.
26. (NEW) The assembly as recited in claim 25, wherein said zero degree fibers are positioned adjacent an upper surface and a lower surface of said spar and a separate composite sheet interwoven with said multiple of braided bias angled fibers and said multiple of zero degree fibers adjacent at least one of said upper and lower aerodynamic surfaces.
27. (NEW) The assembly as recited in claim 25, wherein said upper skin and said lower skin are formed from a multitude of prepreg composite material plies.
28. (NEW) The assembly as recited in claim 25, further comprising a leading-edge sheath which interconnect said upper skin and said lower skin forward of said spar relative said longitudinal axis.
29. (NEW) The assembly as recited in claim 28, further comprising a counterweight between said leading-edge sheath and said spar.
30. (NEW) The hollow composite article as recited in claim 1, wherein said braided sleeve is resin impregnated.

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31. (NEW) The composite rotor blade spar as recited in claim 9, wherein said braided sleeve is resin impregnated.